

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-9 were pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 7, and 8 are independent. The remaining claims depend directly from claims 1, 7, and 8.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 8 have been amended for clarification. Further, by way of this reply, claims 10-12 have been added for clarification. No new matter has been added by way of these newly added claims, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 3 and in paragraph [0030] of the specification. Also by way of this reply, claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5, and 7-12 are currently pending in the present application.

Specification Amendments

Paragraph [0031] in the specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0030] of the Instant Specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. By way of this reply, claim 6 has been cancelled and

therefore the rejection is moot as to that claim. Also by way of this reply, claims 7 and 8 have been amended. Applicant respectfully asserts amended claims 7 and 8 now recite a computer system to validate a date, and a date validation mechanism respectively. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 because the claims recite the limitation “outputting the manipulated date” for which there is insufficient antecedent basis. By way of this reply, claim 6 has been cancelled and therefore the rejection is moot as to that claim. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify the invention recited. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin “Built-In Editing/Auditing Of Input In Date Fields” (hereinafter “IBM”). By way of this reply, claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled and therefore the rejection is moot as to those claims. With respect to the remaining claims, for the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that all limitations of independent claims 1, 7, and 8 are disclosed by IBM. (*See* Office Action dated February 09, 2005 at page 2). IBM discloses a means to automatically validate a user inputted date by calling “an Edit/Auditing routine which will validate the user’s input” (paragraph 3 of IBM). However, IBM is silent as to how the “Edit/Auditing routine” is to be implemented. In contrast, amended independent claims 1, 7, and 8 of the present invention explicitly recite a method of validating a date, a computer system to validate a date, and a date validation mechanism respectively. Specifically, amended

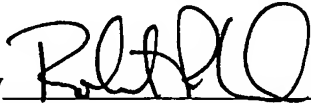
independent claims 1, 7, and 8 recite generating a programming language date using, as a parameter, a formatted version of a user inputted date; then comparing the generated programming language date against the formatted user inputted date to determine the validity of the user inputted date. IBM does not teach or disclose at least, the generation of a programming language date using a data creation function with the user inputted date as a parameter. In fact, IBM discloses passing a structure containing the detailed Date and Time cultural preferences of a user, and then using this structure with the Edit/Auditing routine to validate the user's input date (paragraph 3 of IBM). This is unlike the claims of the present invention which recite, in part, using only the programming language's date creation function to validate the user's input date. No additional structure containing detailed user preferences is required as taught in IBM. Thus, it is clear amended independent claims 1, 7, and 8 are patentable over IBM. Claims 3-5 and 9 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 7, and 8 and are allowable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/122001).

Dated: May 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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